

**SCOTTSDALE** - U.S. Rep. Harry Mitchell today joined Local First Arizona and Scottsdale tourism and business leaders to announce the addition of local Scottsdale businesses to Local First Arizona. The economic downturn has particularly hurt Scottsdale's tourism industry and Local First is increasing its efforts to encourage Arizonans to support local, home grown restaurants, shops and businesses which generates a greater economic impact on the local economy.

"In these difficult economic times it is more important than ever to support our local businesses," Mitchell said. "Being a former mayor I know that supporting local businesses will strengthen our economy, create jobs, and ensure sustainable economic growth in our community. The economic downturn has particularly hurt Scottsdale's tourism and hospitality industries and I believe that supporting and promoting locally-owned and operated businesses is absolutely crucial for our long term recovery."

To draw attention to the local economic impact of supporting local businesses, Mitchell helped launch Local First's Ahwatukee-area small business tour and promotional campaign during the holiday shopping season this past November. Mitchell will kick off his Scottsdale business tour during the Scottsdale Art Walk this evening.

Independent businesses raise the standard of living in our communities because they take their profits and buy products and services from other local businesses, thus creating more and more tax revenues needed for the community to thrive.

"Supporting locally owned businesses is a sure-fire way to diversify our economy and it's an honor to have Congressman Mitchell here to celebrate all that downtown Scottsdale has to offer," said LFA director Kimber Lanning.

Buying locally strengthens the viability and competitiveness of local businesses. For every \$100 in consumer spending, the total local economic impact is only \$13 when goods and services are purchased at a national chain store. The same amount spent with a local merchant, small business, or retailer yields more than three times the local impact, nearly \$45 for every \$100 spent

## **About Local First Arizona**

Founded in 2003 by Director Kimber Lanning, Local First Arizona (LFA) is the largest alliance of independent businesses in the country, working to strengthen communities and local economies through supporting, maintaining, and celebrating locally owned businesses throughout the state of Arizona. With over 1700 members, LFA educates citizens, stakeholders, business leaders, and legislators about the significant environmental, economic, and cultural benefits of strong local economies.

For more information about Local First and a directory of locally owned businesses, visit [www.localfirstaz.com](http://www.localfirstaz.com) or call (602) 956-0909.